

Appl. No. 09/920,080

Amdt. dated 8/22/2003

Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2003 May 23, 2003

PATENTAmendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A ~~frame for a~~ flexible shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane ^{defining} comprising a surface; and

at least one flexible spar having first and second ends, said spar flexibly connected to said pole at a point on said pole intermediate said first and second ends of said pole, with said spar crossing said pole at an angle, and at least one of said first and second ends of said spar being free, not terminating in said substantially common plane, said pole and said spar thereby forming a flexible frame structure; and

a membrane connected to said flexible frame^{all A} and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume dependent on said spar.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 1 wherein said membrane tensions said pole and said at least one spar.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is directly connected to said pole.

Claim 6 (withdrawn)

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a bent shape.

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Claim 8 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein ~~at least one~~ of said first and second ends of said at least one spar ~~does not terminate~~ in said common plane surface. *what is this?*

Claim 9 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 8 1 wherein neither of said first and second ends of said at least one spar terminates in said common plane surface.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said pole is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 10 wherein a tensioning means is in communication with said pole to place said pole under tension to cause said pole to flex in said substantially arcuate shape.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 1 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said at least one spar. *what is this?*

Claim 13 (withdrawn)

Claim 14 (withdrawn)

Claim 15 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A ~~flexible frame structure for a~~ flexible shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane comprising a surface; and

a plurality of flexible spars ~~flexibly connected to said pole and each~~ having first and second ends, ~~each of~~ said spars being connected to said pole at a point plurality of points on said pole intermediate said first and second ends of said pole, with each said spar crossing said *gets over this*

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pole at an angle, and with at least one of said first and second ends of each said spar being free not terminating in said substantially common plane; and
a membrane connected to said flexible frame^{N/A} and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume (dependent on said spar.) ?

Claim 17 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are directly connected to said pole.

Claim 19 (withdrawn)

Claim 20 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 16 wherein at least one of said first and second ends of at least one of said spars does not terminate in said common plane. *} where is this*

Claim 22 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 21 ~~16~~ wherein none of said first and second ends of said spars terminates in said common plane.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The flexible frame shelter structure of claim 16 wherein said pole is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 24 (original) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A ~~frame for a~~ flexible shelter structure comprising:
as a plurality of elongated flexible poles each having a first end and a second end,
with at least one of said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane
comprising a surface; and

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a plurality of spars each having a first end and a second end, each said spar flexibly coupled to and crossing at an angle one and only one of said poles at a point ^{long} intermediate said first and second ends of said pole, ~~and associated only with said pole to form said poles and spars forming a flexible frame structure; and~~

^{N/A}
a membrane coupled to said flexible frame and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume dependent on said spars.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (withdrawn)

Claim 28 (withdrawn)

Claim 29 (currently amended) The ~~frame~~ flexible shelter structure of claim 1 including a guy wire having a first end engaging said spar, a second end terminating substantially in said common plane, and maintaining/said flexible frame ^{N/A} in a substantially upright position.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 1 wherein said membrane ^{wire} engages said spar, extends substantially to said common plane, and maintains ^{N/A} said flexible frame in a substantially upright position.